Our Reception of God's
Thanks

OUR RECEPTION OF GOD'S THOTS.

Intro. When in the seminary I formed the habit of reading the psalms for consolation.

During these last trying days the 139th Psalm has appealed to me with new meaning, imparting to me the satisfaction of soul and comfort of heart that I needed from God.

It comforted my heart to know that God understands his chlidren of earth, even to their minutest thots impulses. "Thou understandest my thot afar off.

Thou searchest out my path and my lying down,
And art acquainted with all my ways.
Whither shall I go from thy Spirit?
Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?"

Yes, God's presence and understanding has meant a great deal to us during these last two weeks, more than we can ever tell.

But it was only a day or so ago that this same psalm shot into my soul a flash of new understanding that has added to my first comfort a sort of victory and triumph. Not only is God acquainted with all our ways and not only does He understand our thots afar off, but it is possible for us to understand God thots and learn to know His ways.

Text-"How precious are thy thots unto me, O God; how great is the sum of them. If I should count them they are more in number than the sand; When I awake I am still with Thee." Ps. 139:17-18.

The other day a friend ~~[illegible]~~ expressed wonderment over the thot that for all these years the air has been filled with messages, but only until recently by means of the radio has man been able to receive them. Yes, and many who have radios are not always able to tune in and get just what they want.

More wonderful to me than the radio is the ability of a man's soul to tune into the mind of God and receive the thots of the Infinite, who is to us a Heavenly Father and a constant Presence. But alas, many souls, like many radio sets, are unable to tune into the mind of God just when they need the thots of God to strengthen them and comfort them. When the sky is clear it is easy to see the sun; but when the cloods gather and astorm rages the sun is out of sight- and to many out of sight means out of mind.

At times we are all more or less blind to the presence and mind of God.

The many inquiries wheich were made unbeknon to us.

My confession- that I felt the expressed sympathies and acts of kindness which came to us from so many friends to be just as comforting, and even a little more so than my scripture reading and praying were proving to be. The other day, in my thinking I was trying to excuse the Lord for letting the sympathy and kindness of friends mean more to me than His own direct comfort, when I seem to hear a voice speak to me, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me". For a second I wondered what this statement had to do with the thot I had in mind, when it suddenly dawned unto me that God thru these friends has been showering us with sympathies and kindnesses all these many days. Our love and sympathy and goodness one to another is not only as unto the Lord but also as from the Lord unto us! All love and goodness comes from God. God speaks His thots to us thru our friends, yes, and sometimes thru a stranger God speaks to us.

Yesterday in Green's Valley. The beautiful wild flowers all in bloom. Mrs.Lark loved it so. We had just explained to the granddaughter how much Mrs.Lark did love it when she exclaimed, "And to think that heaven is even more beautiful and that our dear grandma is there happier than she ever has been."

God spoke His thots to us in those beautiful flowers! Green Valley, Vaca Valley, Blue Ridge Mts., The rain of this morning, the fruited trees, the laden grain, all ate thots of God to the mind that is tuned in to understand!

And when the mind is thus tuned in to understand God what a privelege does prayer and meditation become! What a comfort does the reading of the Word become!

"How precious are thu thots unto me, O God!"

And the closing sentence of our text has a suggestive thot that we might take to heart-"When I awake I am still with thee."

The start a man gets in the morning determines his day. Start it with God, and all is well.

3.

As a man thinketh so is he.
Our thinking based largely upon what we know.
We draw largely from our memories.
Then how important it is to have our memories filled with the Words of God.

Jesus sends the Comforter to explain to us all the things he tried to teach us.

Especially should we know his wonderful Gospel + have vividly in mind the Gospel pantry of the life + example of Christ.

Read poem